

# Yearly Cost Saving by Using Enthalpy Heat Exchanger During Cooling and Heating

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**Abstract.** Fresh air has to be constantly supplied to the building by air handling unit, where supplied air is mixed with inside air and optimal temperature, oxygen level is adjusted and level of dust and smoke is reduced. Supply air demand of the building is determined according to number of persons in the room, room area and regulations. Necessity of ventilation rely in supplying room with oxygen, cleaning the air, adjusting temperature and moisture and reduction of odours, gases, dust, bacteria and viruses. Achieving optimal properties of supply air creates huge portion of building energy consumption. To save energy during ventilation, standard air to air sensible heat exchangers are used. They purpose is to recover sensible heat from exhaust air and at the same time avoid contamination of supply air. Drawback of these types of exchangers is limit of recovering moisture, therefore huge portion of energy in form of latent heat is lost. On top of classical plate air to air heat exchanger, enthalpy heat exchanger allows to exchange latent as well as sensible heat [1].

## 1 Introduction

Heat recovery efficiency can be calculated according to three following transfer rates [2].

- Sensible heat recovery efficiency (temperature).
- Latent heat recovery efficiency (humidity).
- Enthalpy recovery efficiency (total heat).

Heat recovery can be calculated if at least two of above mentioned efficiencies are known. If volume flow of supply air is the same as volume of exhaust air heat recovery efficiency is the same. If volume of supply air and exhaust air is not the same, overall

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efficiency is low, if volume flow of exhaust air is low. Reversely high efficiency is achieved if volume flow of the exhaust air is high.

Sensible heat recovery efficiency under same volume flow of supply and exhaust air (%)

$$\eta_t = \frac{(T_{oa} - T_{sa})}{(T_{oa} - T_{ea})} 100\% \quad (1)$$

Enthalpy recovery efficiency under even volume flow (%)

$$\eta_h = \frac{h_{oa} - h_{sa}}{h_{oa} - h_{ea}} 100\% \quad (2)$$

where: *oa* – outdoor air, *sa* – supply air, *ra* – return air, *ea* – exhaust air.

If heat recovery efficiency and parameters of outdoor and return air are known, parameters of supply air and exhaust air can be determined as:

Temperature [°C]

$$T_{sa} = T_{oa} - (T_{oa} - T_{ra})\eta_T \quad (3)$$

$$T_{ea} = T_{ra} + (T_{oa} - T_{ra})\eta_T \quad (4)$$

Enthalpy [kJ/kg]

$$h_{sa} = h_{oa} - (h_{oa} - h_{ra})\eta_T \quad (5)$$

$$h_{ov} = h_{ra} - (h_{oa} - h_{ra})\eta_T \quad (6)$$

Enthalpy of moist air consist of enthalpy of water vapor and enthalpy of dry air

$$h_{ma} = h_{air} + x \cdot h_{vapor} \quad (7)$$

Where:

$$h_{vapor} = 2500 + 1.8T \quad (8)$$

$$h_{air} = c_p T \quad (9)$$

*x* – weight ratio of moisture in the dry air [g/kg], *c<sub>p</sub>* – specific heat of dry air [J/kg.K].

## 1.1 Calculation for enthalpy heat exchanger

Temperature of supply air – heating in winter

$$T_{sa} = (T_{ra} - T_{oa})\eta_t + T_{oa} \quad (10)$$

Temperature of supply air – cooling in summer

$$T_{sa} = T_{oa} - (T_{oa} - T_{ra})\eta_t \quad (11)$$

Enthalpy of supply air – heating in the winter

$$h_{sa} = (h_{ra} - h_{oa})\eta_h + h_{oa} \quad (12)$$

Enthalpy of supply air – cooling in the summer

$$h_{sa} = h_{oa} - (h_{ra} - h_{oa})\eta_h \quad (13)$$

Heat recovered, heating in the winter [kW]

$$q_r = (h_{sa} - h_{oa})\rho\dot{V} \quad (14)$$

Heat recovered cooling in the summer

$$q_r = (h_{ra} - h_{sa})\rho\dot{V} \quad (15)$$

Outdoor air load, heating in the winter [kW]

$$q_l = (h_{sa} - h_{ra})\rho\dot{V} \quad (16)$$

Outdoor air load, cooling in the summer [kW]

$$q_l = (h_{ra} - h_{sa})\rho\dot{V} \quad (17)$$

## 1.2 Calculation for sensible heat exchanger

Temperature of supply air, heating in the winter

$$T_{sa} = (T_{ra} - T_{oa})\eta_t + T_{oa} \quad (18)$$

Temperature of supply air cooling in the summer

$$T_{sa} = T_{oa} - (T_{oa} - T_{ra})\eta_t \quad (19)$$

Enthalpy of supply air  $h_{sa}$  can be read from psychometric table or by equation:

$$h_{sa} = c_{p\ sa}T_{sa} + x_{sa}(2500 + 1.84T_{sa}) \quad (20)$$

Where weight ratio of water vapor in the dry air on supply side is replaced by weight ratio of outer air. In sensible heat exchanger moisture recovery is not present.

Heat recovered, heating in the winter

$$q_r = (h_{oa} - h_{sa})\rho\dot{V} \quad (21)$$

Heat recovered, cooling in the summer

$$q_s = (h_{ra} - h_{oa})\rho\dot{V} \quad (22)$$

Outer air load, heating in the winter

$$q_z = (h_{sa} - h_{ra})\rho\dot{V} \quad (23)$$

Outdoor air load, cooling in the summer

$$q_l = (h_{ra} - h_{sa})\rho\dot{V} \quad (24)$$

Enthalpy recovery efficiency

$$\eta_h = \frac{q_s}{(q_s + q_z)} 100 \quad (25)$$

### 1.3 Conventional ventilator

During ventilation with conventional air ventilator enthalpy of supply air is the same as enthalpy of outer air and enthalpy of exhaust air same as enthalpy of return air. Heat recovered is 0 kcal and outdoor air load is calculated as:

$$q_s = (h_{ra} - h_{oa})\rho\dot{V} \quad (26)$$

### 1.4 Ventilation operation time

Operation time in hours

$$\text{VOT} = \text{hours/day} * \text{days/months} * \text{months/year} \quad (27)$$

Energy for heating [€/kWh]

$$U_{heat} = \text{electricity cost} / \text{COP} \quad (28)$$

Energy cost for cooling [€/kWh]

$$U_{cool} = \text{electricity cost} / \text{COP} \quad (29)$$

- COP – coefficient of performance

### 1.5 Yearly saved money [€]

$$\text{Early saved money} = q_s \cdot U_{heat} \cdot OT \quad (30)$$

Heat recovered [%]

$$HR = \left( \frac{100}{q_z} \right) q_s \quad (31)$$

### 1.6 Solution

Graphs (Figure 1, 2 and 3) below shows early savings by using sensible heat exchanger and enthalpy heat exchanger.

Volume flow: 8000 m<sup>3</sup>/h

**Winter conditions**

$T_{sa} = 15.8 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $x_{sa} = 5.1 \text{ g/kg}$ , relative humidity 46 %  
 $T_{oa} = 0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $x_{oa} = 1.9 \text{ g/kg}$ , relative humidity 50 %  
 $T_{ra} = 20 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $x_{ra} = 7.2 \text{ g/kg}$ , relative humidity 50 %

**Summer conditions**

$T_{sa} = 27.5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $x_{sa} = 14.0 \text{ g/kg}$ , relative humidity 61 %  
 $T_{oa} = 33 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $x_{oa} = 20.1 \text{ g/kg}$ , relative humidity 63 %  
 $T_{ra} = 26 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $x_{ra} = 10.5 \text{ g/kg}$ , relative humidity 50 %

Next Tables 1, 2 and 3 shows physical parameter of heat exchanger in year seasons.

**Table 1.** Operation conditions and energy cost.

	Summer - cooling	Winter - heating
Hours/day	10.5	10.5
Days/month	26	26
Months/year	4	5
Operation time h/yr	1606.5	2226
Electricity cost [€/kW]	0.0712	0.0712
Capacity per 1kW of electricity [kW/kW]	2.6	3.1
Energy unit cost [€/kW]	0.03	0.02

**Table 2.** Performance enthalpy heat exchanger.

Enthalpy heat exchanger	Summer -cooling	Winter - heating
Yearly savings [€]	2501	3287
Outdoor air load [kW]	84.77	89.91
Heat recovered [kW]	56.85	64.28
Heat recovered [%]	67.1	71.5
$\eta_i$ [%]	78.57	79.00
$\eta_h$ [%]	67.06	71.50

**Table 3.** Performance sensible heat exchanger.

Sensible heat exchanger	Summer -cooling	Winter - heating
Yearly savings [€]	1228	2183
Outdoor air load [kW]	84.77	89.91
Heat recovered [kW]	27.92	42.70
Heat recovered [%]	32.9	47.5
$\eta_i$ [%]	78.57	79.00
$\eta_h$ [%]	18.11	47.50

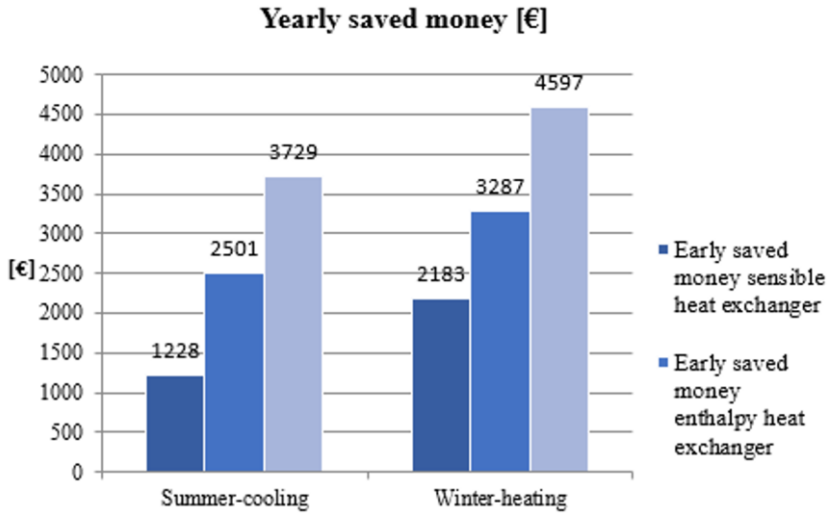


Fig. 1. Yearly saved money for cooling and heating under given conditions.

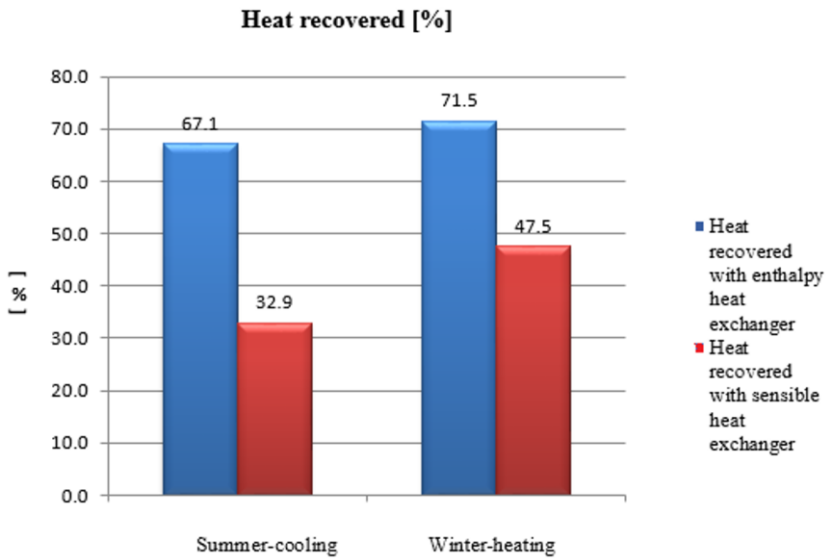


Fig. 2. Heat recovered [%].

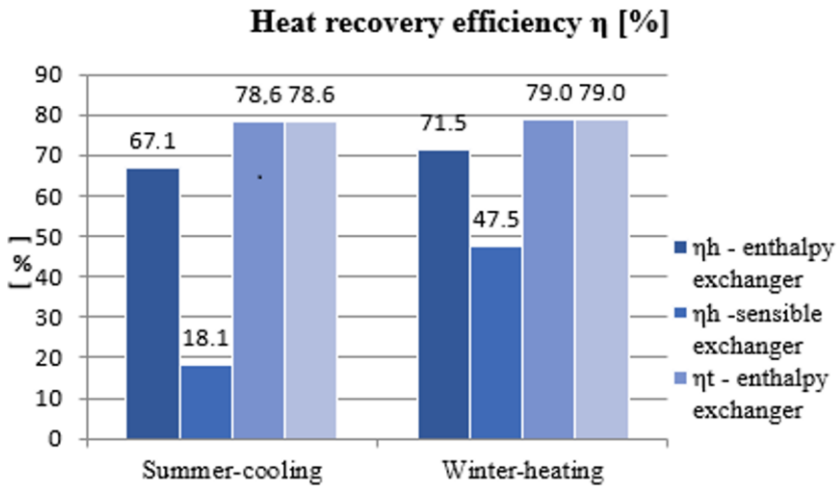


Fig. 3. Heat recovery efficiency of enthalpy and sensible heat exchanger.

## 2 Conclusion

Results show significant contribution of enthalpy heat exchanger in reducing the latent load and significant potential in energy saving in compare to sensible heat exchanger. Sensible heat efficiency for both types of exchangers and enthalpy have the same value assuming same geometry, air conditions and very thin plates accounting for minimal heat transfer resistance. On the other hand recovered moisture accounts for significant difference in enthalpy recovery efficiency where this value can reach 67 % in the summer and 71.5 % in the winter for enthalpy heat exchanger and 18.1 % in the summer and 47.5 % in the winter for sensible heat exchanger. Under given air conditions and volume flow it is possible to save 49 % more costs during cooling in summer and 35 % more costs during heating in winter just by using enthalpy heat exchanger.

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